

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/717,394	MILLER ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Dac V. Ha	2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 04/03/07.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-36, renumbered as 1-36, respectively.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
 of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Dac V. Ha
Primary Examiner
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DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 04/03/07.
2. Claims 1-36 are allowed.
3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Applicant has filed Declaration to establish reduction to practice of the claimed invention prior to Pham's filing date in accordance with 37 CFR§1.131 so as to invalidate the Pham reference as prior art. New claims 21-36 are also added. The present invention relate to phase-locked loop. Particularly, method and apparatus for maintaining the control voltage within a predetermine control-voltage range. Upon further consideration, prior art of record, taking individually or collectively, fails to suggest a motivation for incorporation in an apparatus and method, as claimed, including "a controller that increments said frequency-determining parameter to maintain said control voltage within a predetermined control-voltage range" in independent claims 1, 7 (claims 2-6, 8-20 depend therefrom); and a particular structure for accomplish the same including "inverters that are coupled together to form a ring and are each configured to steer an inverter current between inverter loads to provide an inverter output signal to an adjoining one of said inverters wherein the amplitude of said inverter current is a function of a control voltage and said loads have time constants that are functions of a command signal"; "and a controller that alters said command signal and, hence, said time constants when said control voltage exits a predetermined control-voltage range", as similarly claimed in independent claims 21, 27, 33 (claims 22-26, 28-

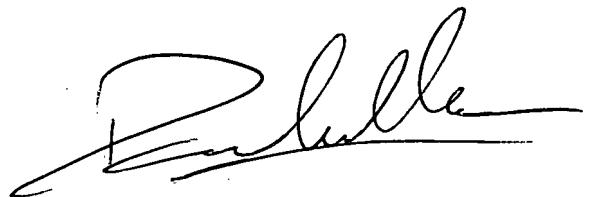
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32, 34-36 depend therefrom). Thus, claims 1-36 are found to be novel and unobvious over prior art of record.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dac V. Ha whose telephone number is 571-272-3040. The examiner can normally be reached on 4/4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Payne can be reached on 571-272-3024. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Dac V. Ha
Primary Examiner
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